Unmanned Satellites On Postage Stamps
25. The Ariel Series

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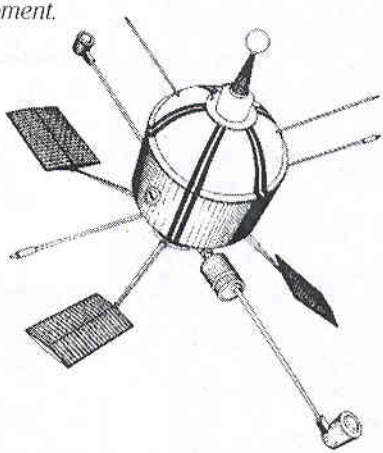
and **Garry Toth**

This is the twenty-fifth in a series of articles about un-manned satellites on postage stamps. This article features the British **Ariel**-*series satellites. Six Ariel satellites were successfully launched, starting with Ariel-1 on 26 April 1962, and ending with Ariel-6 on 2 June 1979. There were no launch failures of Ariel satellites. The Ariel series is also called the* **UK series** *of satellites due to the British role in their development.*

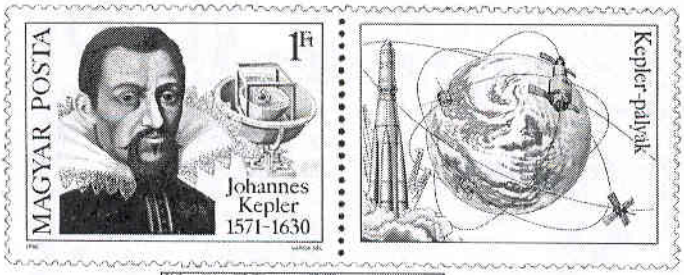


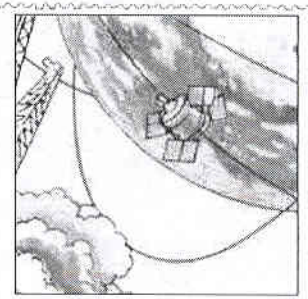
The Ariels were physics and astrophysics satellites, with experiments to study the ionosphere, galactic radio noise, X-rays, and cosmic rays. The satellites had cylindrical bodies with different cones or caps on one end, and were spin stabilized along the cylinder axis. Ariel-1 and 2 had various arms and paddles on the other end of the body: in this respect they were a bit like some of the early Explorer-series satellites.

Three of the later-design Ariels (Ariel-3, 4, and 6) had four large "arms" attached diagonally to the spacecraft body. These arms looked somewhat like snowshoes with tubular frames and in fact contained solar panels that looked a bit like webbing. Antennas and instruments were sometimes attached to these arms. For Ariel-6 the arms were perpendicular to the spacecraft body, and the cap on top was hemispherical rather than conical.

Ariel-5 was unlike the other Ariels, being a large cylinder about 1 m in diameter and length, with no significant attachments. In fact, the spacecraft looked much like Explorer-54 and 55, and was indeed uncharacteristic of the rest of the Ariel series.

Most of the postal items for Ariel show Ariel-1 or 2, with only a couple of items showing Ariel-3. Some of the images show a great deal of detail of the spacecraft. As far as the author knows, there are no postal items known that show Ariel-4, Ariel-5, or Ariel-6.





This close-up reveals the Ariel satellite circling the globe on this Hungarian stamp.

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Below is a checklist of Ariel-series satellite postal items. If readers know of additional information or images, please contact the authors using the e-mail addresses at the bottom of this page.

Checklist of Ariel Series Satellites Postal Items

Country	Catalog #*	Type of Item**	Year	Notes
Dubai	124	Stamp	1970	Ariel-3/4
Equatorial Guinea	BLA297 black	In margin of imperforate SS1 (MiA1343), silver foil, black printing	1978	Ariel-3/4
Equatorial Guinea	BLA297 Red	In margin of imperforate SS1 (MiA1343), silver foil, red printing	1978	Ariel-3/4
Equatorial Guinea	BLA297 black	In margin of imperforate SS1 (MiA1343), gold foil, black printing	1978	Ariel-3/4
Equatorial Guinea	BLA297 Red	In margin of imperforate SS1 (MiA1343), gold foil, red printing	1978	Ariel-3/4
Hungary	1666 i1666	Stamp	1965	Ariel-1
Hungary	2667	Single + Label	1980	Ariel-1/2
Mongolia	C33k	One of MS12 (C33a-l)	1972	Ariel-2
Oman State	Not Listed	One of MS8	1974	Ariel-1
Panama	472 (Mi993)	Stamp	1966	Ariel-1, Ariel-2
Panama	472c (BL59) i472c (BL60)	In margin of MS2 (472A-472B) (changed colors on imperforate)	1966	Ariel-1, Ariel-2
Panama	492 (Mi1105a)	472 overprinted in black	1968	Ariel-1, Ariel-2
Panama	492 var (Mi1105b)	472 overprinted in gold	1968	Ariel-1, Ariel-2
Panama	492B (BL99a - o/p1) (BL99a - o/p2) i492B (BL100a)	In margin of MS2 (472c) overprinted in black (changed colors on imperforate) In margin of MS2 (472c)	1968 1968	Ariel-1, Ariel-2 Ariel-1, Ariel-2
Panama	492B var (BL99b) i492B var (BL100b)	overprinted in gold (changed colors on imperforate)		
Panama	C365c (Mi1139)	One of MS6 (C365a-f) + selvedge	1969	Ariel-3
Philippines	BL2	SS1	1968	Ariel-1
Philippines	BL2 (o/p)	SS1 (BL2) overprinted "SNV"	1968?	Ariel-1
Poland	1468	Stamp	1966	Ariel-2
Saint Thomas and Prince Islands	906	In margin of SS1	1989	Ariel-1/2
Satellite Beach Florida USA	Local	Set-C4 (blue)	1964	Ariel-1
Satellite Beach Florida USA	Local	Set-C4 (blue) overprinted in gold	1965	Ariel-1
Tonga	Not Listed	One of essay strip of 3	1983	Ariel-1/2
Umm Al Qiwain	Mi81	Stamp	1966	Ariel-1/2
Umm Al Qiwain	Mi92	Mi81 overprinted new currency	1967	Ariel-1/2
Yugoslavia	1045	Stamp	1971	Ariel-1

**Scott catalog number, unless prefixed with Mi or BL for Michel; "i" prefix denotes imperforate version.*
SS# = souvenir sheet, MS# = miniature sheet # is number of stamps in sheet; numbers in parentheses are catalog numbers of the stamp(s)

Readers are referred to the authors' website for checklists and images of Ariel satellites as well as launch covers and postal items featuring these satellites at: www.cira.colostate.edu/ramm/hillger/Eole.htm E-mail correspondence is welcome. Don Hillger can be reached at hillger@ cira.colostate.edu and Garry Toth at garry_toth@hotmail.com

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MAGYAR POSTA
3 RIYALS
DUBAI
AIR MAIL
ARIEL 2
MONGOLIA
МОНГОЛ ШУУДАН
60
MBHГB
MAGYAR POSTA
1Ft
Johannes Kepler 1571-1630
Kepler-pályák
15 c
AEREO
PANAMA
ARIEL-2
SATELLITE BEACH LOCAL POST
10c
PEACEFUL USES OF SPACE
29s
POSTAGE
50
UMM · AL · QIWAIN